

CITY OF GRAPEVINE

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

SOFTBALL RULES AND REGULATIONS

Revised 2/21/13

All League Games will be played in accordance with the current Amateur Softball Association (ASA) Official Guide and the current Texas Amateur Athletic Federation (TAAF) Cavalcade of Sports, with the addition of the following:

**** DENOTES ANY RULE REVISIONS WITHIN THIS PAST YEAR**

I. Eligibility

1. "Class D" League – No residency or employment requirements.
2. "Class Super D & E" Leagues – No residency or employment requirements.
3. "Co-ed" League – No residency or employment requirements.
4. "Church" League – No residency or employment requirements. All players must be a bona fide member of the church they represent prior to the start of the games. Church Pastor/Minister certification is required on the team roster. For a team to add players to their roster a representative from the Church must contact the GPARD Administrative Offices for approval.
5. Players in all Adult Leagues must be sixteen (16) years of age or older prior to the start of league play.
6. **COACHES are responsible for their rosters to match the players' identity. All players must carry a current picture identification with them at all times during all league games. GPARD staff will randomly check team rosters against the line up, any player that is not on the team roster will NOT be allowed to play.**
 - If the illegal player is found before the game, he/she will not be allowed to play and the game will begin, dependant upon the number of players left over.
 - If the illegal player is found during or after the game, the game will automatically be deemed a forfeit.
7. Players will be allowed to play on more than one team during a season, but can not play on more than one team in the same league.
8. In the interest of equalizing league play, after a demonstration of dominance in a division, the Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to promote a team into a more competitive division, at the PARD discretion.

II. Rosters

1. Each team will be allowed a maximum of twenty (20) players, including playing coaches.
- 2.** Each Team may add up to 20 players during the season. Once a team adds 20 players, then you will have to add/drop players. You may do so with the UIC at the field to add/drop players. No team may exceed 20 players at a time. **No team may add any players after their sixth (6) games. Your roster will be frozen after six (6) games and that is what you will play with for the remainder of the season including the post-season tournament. If you are adding a player from another field or as a bystander, you have until the end of the 1st inning to add the player to your team's roster sheet on that pick-up player. (Please note, no team may pick up a player that is on another roster in the same division/night.)**
2. All team members must submit a complete roster sheet with the players Name, Home Phone, Address, City, Zip Code, SS# or DL# and the player's signature.
3. **Rosters are due prior to the 1st pitch of the team's 2nd scheduled game. If a team has not submitted their roster, then they will forfeit their 1st at bat of the second scheduled game to complete the roster, and they will automatically be deemed as visitors for that game. Game will start at the bottom of the 1st inning.**

III. Equipment/Uniforms

1. All players on each team must wear jerseys that are matching in the base color and which have a permanently affixed, non-duplicated number on the back. Jerseys without numerals or jerseys with taped, pinned, or handwritten numerals will NOT be allowed. There will be a one game "grace period" for all teams to obtain their jerseys. After this "grace period", players not attired as described above will NOT be allowed to participate. As a result we will have jerseys with numbers for sale at the concession stand for \$10.00 each. These jerseys will be legal to wear for the rest of the season.
2. Shoes: No steel cleats will be allowed.
3. Each team must purchase league balls from the concession stand for \$5
4. Umpires may ban any equipment that they deem as unsafe or illegal.
5. **Jewelry** – Exposed jewelry, which is judged by the umpire to be dangerous, may not be worn during the game. NOTE: Players MUST remove jewelry if judged to be dangerous. If they fail to do so, the player is ejected from the game.

IV. **Playing Rules**

1. A complete Line-up **MUST** be turned in to the Homeplate Umpire at least ten (10) minutes prior to the scheduled game time regardless of time status of the previous game. Line-ups **MUST include last name, first name and jersey number**. If a completed Line-up is not turned in at least ten (10) minutes prior to game time, two (2) outs will be assessed to your team at first bat. If a completed Line-up card is not turned in by game time, the game will be declared a forfeit .
2. Each team manager should initial the scorekeeper's game report after each game. This will ensure that all records are correct and have been accepted by BOTH team managers. Failure to initial the game report will be an indication that the team manager has ACCEPTED the game report and has forfeited his/her right to a review. **League standings will be based on game and staff reports.**
3. **All batters will begin with a 1 ball, 1 strike count. The first 3rd strike foul will NOT be an out, but the second 3rd strike foul will be an out.**
4. An official game will consist of fifty-five (55) minutes, seven (7) innings, or the "Run Rule" whichever comes first. **For rainout procedures on official game time refer to Article VIII, Section 1.**
"Run Rule": Ten (10) runs after 5 innings, depending on the status of the home team, **Fifteen (15)** after 4 innings, or **Twenty (20) runs** after 1 ½ or 2 innings.
5. No new inning will begin after fifty-five (55) minutes. If the time limit expires or game goes into extra innings due to a tied score, the game reverts to a 3 ball, 2-strike conclusion (first foul is an out).
6. **Home Run Limits:**
"Class Super D" Leagues – 3 home runs will be allowed. Each batter hitting a home run in excess of the home run limit will be held to a single.
"Church" League – 2 home runs will be allowed. This first batter hitting a home run in excess of the home run limit is ruled out and all other players hitting a home run are ruled out. (The player(s) are no longer disqualified from the game).
"Class D & Super E" Leagues – 1 home run will be allowed. The first batter hitting a home run in excess of the home run limit is ruled out and all other players hitting a home run are ruled out. (The player(s) are no longer disqualified from the game).
"Co-ed" Leagues – 1 home run will be allowed. The first batters hitting a home run in excess of the home run limit is ruled out and all other player(s) hitting a home run are ruled out. (The player(s) are no longer disqualified from the game).
"Class E" League – 0 home runs will be allowed. The first batter hitting a home run in excess of the home run limit is ruled out and all other players hitting a home run are ruled out. (The player(s) are no longer disqualified from the game).
7. Teams must start and finish a game with at least nine (9) players. A team with nine (9) players will receive an "Automatic Out" for the open tenth batter spot. However, once a team has ten (10) players officially in the game, they may not go back to nine (9) players; or if team has eleven (11) players officially in the game, they may not go back to ten (10) players.
 - a. If a team only has eleven (11) (Men's/Women's Leagues), or twelve (12) (Co-ed League) and one is ejected from the game, the game is FORFEITED.
 - b. If team only has ten (10), eleven (11) (Men's/Women's Leagues), or twelve (12) (Co-ed Leagues) players and one is injured and can not continue in the game, an "Automatic Out" may be taken in the injured player's batting position. A team is limited to a maximum of one (1) "Automatic Out" in that player's spot.

- c. If the injured player was himself/herself a substitute, he/she must be replaced by the starter that the injured player originally replaced or suffer an "Automatic Out" in that player's spot.
- d. Co-ed teams must start a game with either two (2) extra hitters or no extra hitters.
8. **Blood Rule:** A player, coach, or umpire who is bleeding or who has blood on his uniform shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment is administered in a reasonable length of time, the individual will not have to leave the game. The length of time considered reasonable is left to the umpire's judgement. Uniform rule violations will not be enforced if a uniform change is required. The umpire shall:
 - a. Stop the game and allow treatment if the injured person would affect the continuation of play.
 - b. Immediately call a coach, trainer, or other "authorized persons" to the injured player.
 - c. Apply the rules of the game regarding substitution, re-entry and short-handed player if necessary.
9. Any of the starting players may be withdrawn and re-enter once provided such player occupies the same batting position, whenever he/she is in the line-up.
10. **Five (5) minute grace period! The clock will start at game time. The team that is awaiting their ninth (9th) player will automatically be the visitors and forfeit the top half of the first (1st) inning. If the teams' ninth (9th) player does not show within the five (5) minute grace period, the game is declared a forfeit.**
11. **A courtesy runner will be allowed to run for an injured batter/runner one time per game. We will allow the last person who made an out to replace the injured player. If batter A exercised this rule during the second inning, then for subsequent at bats, batter A has to run for him/her or be removed from the game. However, batter B may use this rule in another inning. Each player that uses this rule, may do it only once per and it can't happen in the same inning. In Coed, it would be the last player of that gender who made the last out to replace the injured runner. If the injured player is unable to re-enter the game, then they would have to be replaced. If there were no substitute, it would be an automatic out.**
12. **FORFEIT FEE: Any team that forfeits a game will be assessed a \$25.00 fee that must be paid in order to play the following week. Fees can be turned in to the concession stand or the Administrative Offices at the Community Activities Center, the following business day. NO CASH ACCEPTED, CHECKS MADE OUT TO THE CITY OF GRAPEVINE.**
13. If a team forfeits three (3) league games due to lack of players at the start of a regularly scheduled game, the team will be dropped from the league with no refund of the entry fee and all teams scheduled to play the offending team for the remainder of the season will receive a win by forfeit. Make-up games scheduled on days other than the original league night will not apply.
14. If a team receives a forfeit, they will have use of the field for practice (except for the last game of the night) until ten (10) minutes before the next scheduled game time. Umpires will NOT umpire during forfeits.
15. In the interest of safety for players and children, all teams are asked to keep the gate from the dug-out on to the playing field closed at all times. No person under the age of sixteen (16) will be allowed on the playing field at any time during the game.
16. **All Men's leagues (Church, Super D, D and Super E, E divisions) will observe the "steal rule." Please refer to the ASA rulebook (p 112, Rule 8, Section 6, G.).**
17. The Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to approve/disapprove any team name, logo, language on uniform deemed lewd, vulgar, obscene or suggestive in order to maintain a wholesome environment conducive to providing quality leisure opportunities.
18. The Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to add, delete or amend its rules, regulations, policies for the betterment of the program.
19. "Dig Out Rule" will be enforced – Umpires will go over this rule during per-game conference.
- 20.** **New Rule – The Halo rule will be enforced with all divisions: If a batter hits a ball up the middle directly at the pitcher and/or path – If in the judgment of the umpire to be dangerous (high risk of INJURY), the play will be ruled dead – runners will go back to the original base they started from, and the batter will be called out.**

V. Co-ed Playing Rules

1. Five (5) men and five (5) women must be in the line-up at all times. (Teams may start a game with nine (9) players. See rule VI.)

2. Offensive teams must alternate the batting line-up according to gender. If a player leaves the game for any reason, their substitute must be of the same gender.
3. Defensively, two (2) males and two (2) females must take position in the outfield; two (2) males and two (2) females must take position in the infield. The pitcher and the catcher must be of different gender.
4. Any walk to a male batter will result in a two base award. The next batter (a female) will bat.
Exception: With two outs, the female batter has the option to walk or bat.

VI. Co-ed "For Fun" Playing Rules

All playing rules (Section IV) and Co-ed Rules (Section V) will apply except for the following:

1. Co-ed "For Fun" league may start with nine (9) players, five (5) of one gender and four (4) of the other. The automatic out rule will apply for the tenth batting position (See rule IV. 7.).
2. All regulations governing rosters will not apply to the Co-ed "For Fun" league. Players are not limited to one particular team. Teams are not limited as to their number of players on the team.
3. Matching jerseys or jersey numbers are not required for the players on the team.
- 4.** Teams at bat will be allowed to score a maximum of seven (7) to ten (10) runs per half inning depending on when the umpire signals "time". **Please Note: For Fun leagues will observe a 50 minute time limit. No new inning will start after 50 minutes; the home team WILL be able to finish their half of the inning.**
5. Defensive positioning will not be restricted as in other Co-ed leagues. The five (5) male fielders and five (5) female fielders may play any position. However, the batting order must alternate males and females.

VII. Field Conditions

In case of inclement weather, the playability of game fields will be determined at 3:30 p.m. each day. **ONLY team managers should call 817-410-3475 AFTER 3:30 p.m. for information. It is the team manager's responsibility to notify his/her players regarding field playability.**

VIII. Rain-Out Procedure

1. Rainouts will be made up on regular league play nights. A game is considered official if it is called after 4 innings or 3 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead.
2. All make-up games will be called in its entirety. **Exception: If a league has more than two games to make up, then all games will begin with a 3 ball, 2 strike count, and the third foul is not an out, fourth foul is an out.**

IX. Tie-Breaker Procedure

In case of a tie for trophy positions at the conclusion of the season, the following tiebreaker procedure will be used to determine places:

1. Head-to-Head result(s) between teams tied.
2. If teams split in head-to-head games, point differential in those games will be used.
3. If teams are still tied, point differential in ALL league games for the teams tied will be used.
4. After the first place team has been determined, revert back to #1 above to determine second place from the remaining tied teams.

X. Conduct/Discipline – Zero Tolerance

1. Grapevine City Ordinance Section #16-6 states, "It shall be unlawful for any person to possess or consume alcoholic beverages in the public park of the City."
2. Smoking will not be allowed on the fields.
3. **Zero Tolerance – If a player is ejected from the game, it is the coach's responsibility to get that player OFF of the field and OUT of the park. There will not be a time limit on this, but if the player refuses to leave in a timely manner the game will be declared a FORFEIT.**
4. Any player, coach and manager ejected from any league game will be suspended for a (1) one game.
5. Players, coaches and managers who have been ejected or suspended MAY NOT RETURN UNTIL THE COMPLETION OF THEIR SUSPENSION.

6. Each team manager will be held responsible for the conduct of his/her fans/spectators.
7. Suspensions will carry over from season to season. Example: A player suspended during the final game of one season will also be suspended for the first game of the next season.
8. Verbal or physical violence especially attacks on a game or tournament official immediately before, during or after a game, fight or confrontation between players/teams will result in a minimum of one (1) year loss of eligibility in ALL league play, subject to an annual review if requested.
9. Ejection/Suspension/Appeal Procedures: Once a player, coach or spectator is ejected from a game, then that person will be notified in writing that they will be suspended for one (1) game and/or one (1) year depending on the severity of the incident. When the suspended person receives that correspondence, then he/she has the right to appeal the ruling **in writing** within 5 days. In turn, the Grapevine Parks and Recreation athletic office, has up to 5 days to render a decision **in writing** regarding the appeal. This office has the right to uphold, reduce, waive or increase any suspension that has been granted, once the research has been conducted. All decisions are final and are considered closed.
10. The umpires have the authority to remove a player, coach or spectator from a game and/or forfeit the game due to unsportsmanlike conduct. Unsportsmanlike conduct shall include, but not be limited to, profanity, threats of any kind toward the umpires, staff member or official, fighting (before, during or after the game), any intoxicated condition detected by the umpire before or during the game or any flagrant foul as determined by the umpire.

XI. **Protests**

MUST be filed in the following manner:

1. Must be filed before the game is over.
2. Notify the homeplate umpire and give the details of your protest.
3. See that the umpire notifies the Umpire in Charge (UIC) and that the protest is recorded in the official scorebook as well as the Game Administration Report.
4. On the first regular business day following the protested game, the team manager must submit the protest in writing to the Parks and Recreation Department Administrative Offices along with a \$25.00 Protest Fee. Make check payable to "City of Grapevine". If the protest is upheld, the fee will be refunded.
5. Judgement calls are NOT a basis for protests.
6. Rule interpretation protest must be filed before the next pitch.
7. Player eligibility protests must be filed before the last out of the game by the manager of the team opposing the alleged ineligible player. The manager must then complete numbers 3 & 4 above to complete the protest procedure.

XII. **Park Rules**

1. Patrons must observe the city "Dog Leash Law" while at the game at Oak Grove Park.
2. No in-line skates or skate boards allowed.
3. For the courtesy of all patrons, please observe all bi-cycle safety rules within the ball field areas.